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Now where has the *Nation's* reviewer been buried not to know that this very pseudo-proof was given by Legendre, and its fallacy shown by George Paxton Young in the *Canadian Journal* for November, 1856, forty years ago, and again in the *Canadian Journal* for July, 1860, pages 356-358?

GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED.

Austin, Texas.

James Joseph Sylvester, the great mathematician, Sivilian professor of geometry at Oxford, formerly professor of mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University, and in 1841 at the University of Virginia, died in London on March 15th, aged eighty-three years. Also the eminent mathematician Dr. Karl Weierstrass, died at Berlin on February 19th, aged eighty-one years. In the death of these two men, mathematics sustains a great loss. Both did much to broaden and deepen mathematical knowledge. Sylvester has written much on invariants, the theory of equations, theory of partitions, multiple algebra, the theory of numbers, the theory of reciprocants, etc., while Weierstrass has given special attention to the theory of functions of a complex variable. For a biography of Sylvester, by Dr. Halsted, see MONTHLY, Vol. I., No. 9. B. F. F.

BOOKS.

Composite Geometrical Figures. By George A. Andrews, A. M. 63 pages. Price 55 cents. Ginn and Company, Boston, and London. 1896.

The figures in this little book are constructed for the demonstration of more than one proposition. Ten of the figures are designed for review work, while the last general figure is intended for re-review work of all the theorems of plane geometry. Under each figure are illustrative demonstrations, followed by series of easy examples which require the pupil to apply the general principles of geometry to the specific conditions of the figures. It will be seen that the book is not designed to take the place of other text-books, but is intended to be used with them for reviews and for supplemental easy original work. The plan of the work is rather unique, and it will be useful to teachers who feel the need in their classes for the specific application of geometrical principles. J. M. C.

National Geographic Monographs: (1) *Physiographic Processes*, by J. W. Powell; (2) *Physiographic Regions of the U. S.*, by J. W. Powell; (3) *Lakes and Sinks of Nevada*, by I. C. Russell; (4) *Mt. Shasta*, by J. S. Diller. Price 20 cents each, or \$1.50 for a set of ten. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

These monographs on the physical features of the earth's surface furnish fresh and interesting material with which to supplement the regular text books. They have been written with exceptional care and ability and are not only very serviceable for such use, but are very interesting to the general reader as well. J. M. C.